

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 OES-03 ERDA-05 NRC-05 NASA-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY

INFO CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:MARR, MNUC, PFOR, AS, NZ

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR-POWERED WARSHIPS

REF: A. CANBERRA 206

B. WELLINGTON 3765

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

1. JANUARY 14 REUTERS ITEM DATED CANBERRA REPORTS THAT GOA DEFENSE MINISTER KILLEN HAS OFFERED ALLIED NPWS USE OF COCKBURN SOUND NAVAL BASE. KILLEN REPORTEDLY SAID COCKBURN SOUND COULD BE READY FOR ALLIED NAVIES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN BEFORE 1978, THAT ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS WOULD BE IMPOSED ON THE DOCKING OF NUCLEAR-POWERED WARSHIPS AT THE BASE, AND THAT A REQUEST TO DOCK SUCH SHIPS WOULD BE A MATTER FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DAY. KILLEN
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REPORTEDLY DECLINED TO GIVE A SPECIFIC ANSWER WHEN ASKED

IF SUCH SHIPS COULD BE CARRYING NUCLEAR WARHEADS.

2. SAME REPORT SAID NEW ZEALAND PRIME MINISTER MULDOON HAD INDICATED HIS COUNTRY WAS ABOUT TO LIFT A SIMILAR BAN ON US NPW. MULDOON REPORTEDLY SAID IN AN INTERVIEW, AFTER TALK WITH VISITING US SENATORS, THAT IT WAS INCOMPATIBLE WITH ANZUS TREATY TO PUT QUOTE IMPOSSIBLE

RESTRAINTS UNQUOTE ON ALLIES; THAT NO REQUEST HAD BEEN RECEIVED FOR US NPW PORT VISIT; AND THAT HE BELIEVED SUCH VISITS WOULD BE ALLOWED IN FUTURE.

3. FOR CANBERRA. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON SIGNIFICANCE OF KILLEN STATEMENT. IS THIS CLEVER TACTIC TO POSTPONE ADMISSION OF US NPW TO ANY AUSTRALIAN PORT UNTIL 1978, AND TO EXCLUDE VISITS TO PORTS OTHER THAN COCKBURN SOUND?

4. FOR WELLINGTON. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY UPDATE ON PROBABLE NATURE AND TIMING OF FURTHER GONZ ACTIONS ON THIS ISSUE.

5. FYI. DEPARTMENT IS PREPARING NEW INSTRUCTIONS TO EMBASSIES CANBERRA AND WELLINGTON ON THIS ISSUE. KISSINGER

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